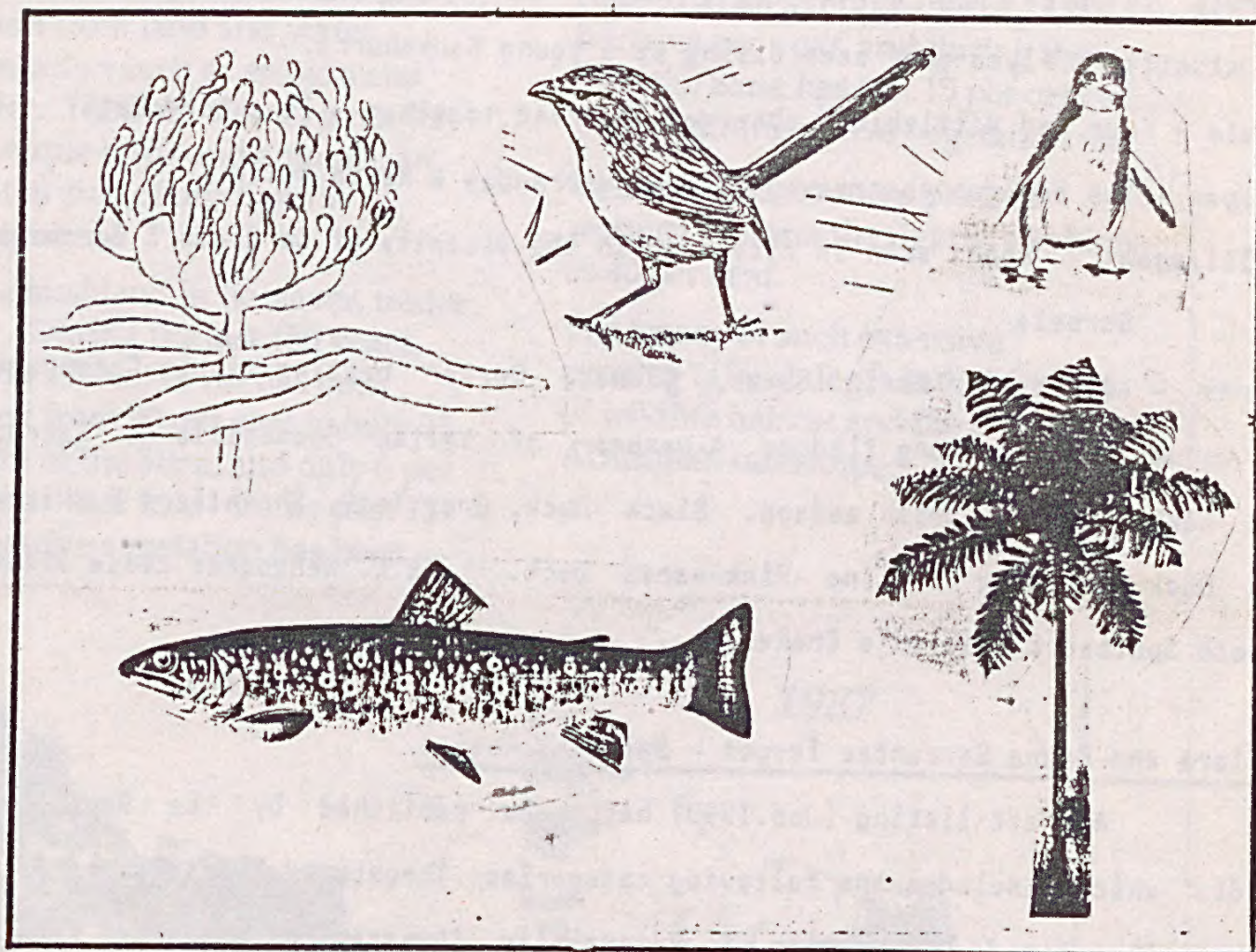


MARCH 1990

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat *Incorporated*

EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

- Meeting : Mar.2nd. A.G.M. Members Night.
- Meeting : Apr.6th.
- Excursion : Mar.4th. Sailor's & Spring Creeks, Hepburn Springs.
- Excursion : Apr.8th. Haddon, Smythesdale. H.Burgess/P.Murphy.



President;	Dr.F.Harrap	Ph. 053 301651
Vice Pres.	Miss H.Burgess	312210
Secretary:	Mr.G.Binns	332282
Treasurer:	Mrs.F.Williamson	327631
Editor:	Mr.A.Barlow	413378

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lydiard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY*

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Mar.4th. Excursion to Sailor's Creek & Spring Creek, Hepburn Regional Park. Meet at Crocker's Corner at 9-30 a.m. (Full day excursion)
Afternoon meeting place - 1-30p.m. at Blowhole Rd. car park.
- Mar.9th.-12th. Combined W.V.F.N.C.A/V.F.N.C.A. Camp Out at Ingamel's Camp, Ocean Grove. Contact Person: Dick Southcombe Ph. 052 433916.
- Mar.22nd. Committee meeting. 8p.m. at 55, Marie Crescent, Wendouree.

Field Reports - February Meeting.

- J.Spicer - Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos sighted in Darling St. (City)
- K.McDonnell - At Invermay - Crimson Rosellas feeding young by regurgitation, Needletails also observed.
- N.Kierath - A snake seen in a pool at Hepburn Springs (Copperhead?); A kangaroo observed in Armstrong St.N. (Don't get excited, it was part of a publicity stunt!) A Flycatcher seen diving at a young Kookaburra.
- H.Neale - Four Red Wattlebirds observed together - in a bird bath!
- I.Hooper - Two Brolgas observed between Warrandoo & Nevin Nevin.
- K.Williamson - Koala seen in city area in the vicinity of Cardigan & Burnbank Streets
- G.Binns - At Merin Merin Swamp, Clunes; Darter resting within Cormorant colony - three young fledged. A number of Yellow Spoonbills & Sacred Ibis nested there this season. Black Duck, Grey Teal, Shovellers & White-eyed Duck breeding but no Pink-eared Duck. At L. Wendouree close views of both Spotted & Baillon's Crakes.

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Issues - Ballarat Region

A draft listing (Jan.1990) has been published by the Dept. of C.F.&L. which includes the following categories: Threatened Flora; threatened Fauna; Threatened Communities & Potentially Threatening Processes. Flora & fauna are further categorised within the following statuses; diminishing, rare or restricted, vulnerable and endangered.

The list is available from the Club library.

Caring for the bush makes sense



Keeping native bush helps limit greenhouse impacts by keeping carbon locked up so that it does not add to emissions of greenhouse gases.

Native trees and shrubs help protect Victoria from land and water degradation such as erosion and salinity. They are also a haven for our unique birds and animals, an essential part of our natural environment.

Native bushland is, however, under threat. During the last 150 years, Victoria's forest cover has been reduced from 90 per cent to only 35 per cent of the State, and only 6 per cent of private land. In the past 15 years native vegetation has been

cleared at an average rate of 15,000 hectares per year, and during that time the State has lost 15 per cent of the remaining native vegetation on freehold land; in some parts of western Victoria the figure is as high as 40 per cent.

The legacy of such extensive clearing is land degradation and loss of wildlife habitat and the familiar Australian landscape.



Changes in Victoria's forest cover. Source: Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

February Speaker. Mr R. Hately. Eucalypts.

The Native Afforestation Programme. Eucalypt Planting Trials

Community involvement is encouraged in a joint University, C.F.aL. programme, which aims to stimulate a sustained increase in the level of investment by State, Federal and Local Government, Community Groups and individual Land Holders in the establishment of Hardwood plantations, land rehabilitation and degradation control through reafforestation.

Why this needs to be done and the benefits:-

- 1 To plant a timber source for future needs.
- 2 Eucalyptus plantation overseas.
- 3 Farm productivity.

In Brazil there are bigger and taller forests of eucalypts being harvested every seven years. some overseas growth is amazing.

Why do it at Creswick?

This is a degraded exposed site with poor
1.

Because it is typical of areas needing re-afforestation and for land protection.

C To create research facilities.

D Because it is a convenient public location between Nursery and forestry school.

The trees will provide research opportunities for undergraduate, post graduate and post doctoral studies.

Demonstration of techniques will be to:-

- 1 Farmers and Treegrowers
- 2 Community groups
- 3 Schools
- 4 The General public

Five experiments are to be carried out in this research, they are:-

Nutrition, weed control, provenance (seed source location), spacing and propagation.

There are six species used in the trials they are:-
E. nitens (shining gum), *E. globulus* (bluegum),
E. obliqua (messmate), *E. cladocalyx* (sugar gum),
E. camaldulensis (redgum) and *E. sieberii*
(silvertop).

In two years time there will be:-

- 1 14 HA of plantations established.
- 2 Walking tracks with interpretation material.
- 3 Field days and seminars.
- 4 Our knowledge will have increased.

Ron showed slides of various trees and plantations showing the progress so far.

L.F.

A NEW RECORD for BALLARAT FORESTS.

LEUCOPOGON GLACIALIS. Family : Epacridaceae.

This plant has not previously been recorded for the Ballarat Study Area.

It is a low growing shrub with mostly spirally twisted heath-like leaves, hence its common name - Twisted Beard-heath.

The plants found were approximately 20-30 cms. high and growing amid *Poa* tussocks on fairly high ground at Enfield. The flowers were white, mostly drooping, more or less in terminal spikes and the inside of the corolla tubes were quite thickly bearded.

Leucopogon glacialis was first discovered in the Grampians by the Mitchell expedition of 1836 and named in 1838 by John Lindley who was Professor of Botany at University College in London. It has now been recorded for several other localities, namely the Western Victorian heathlands and, more recently, for the S.E. corner of S.A. where it is found on swamp margins in sandy soils.

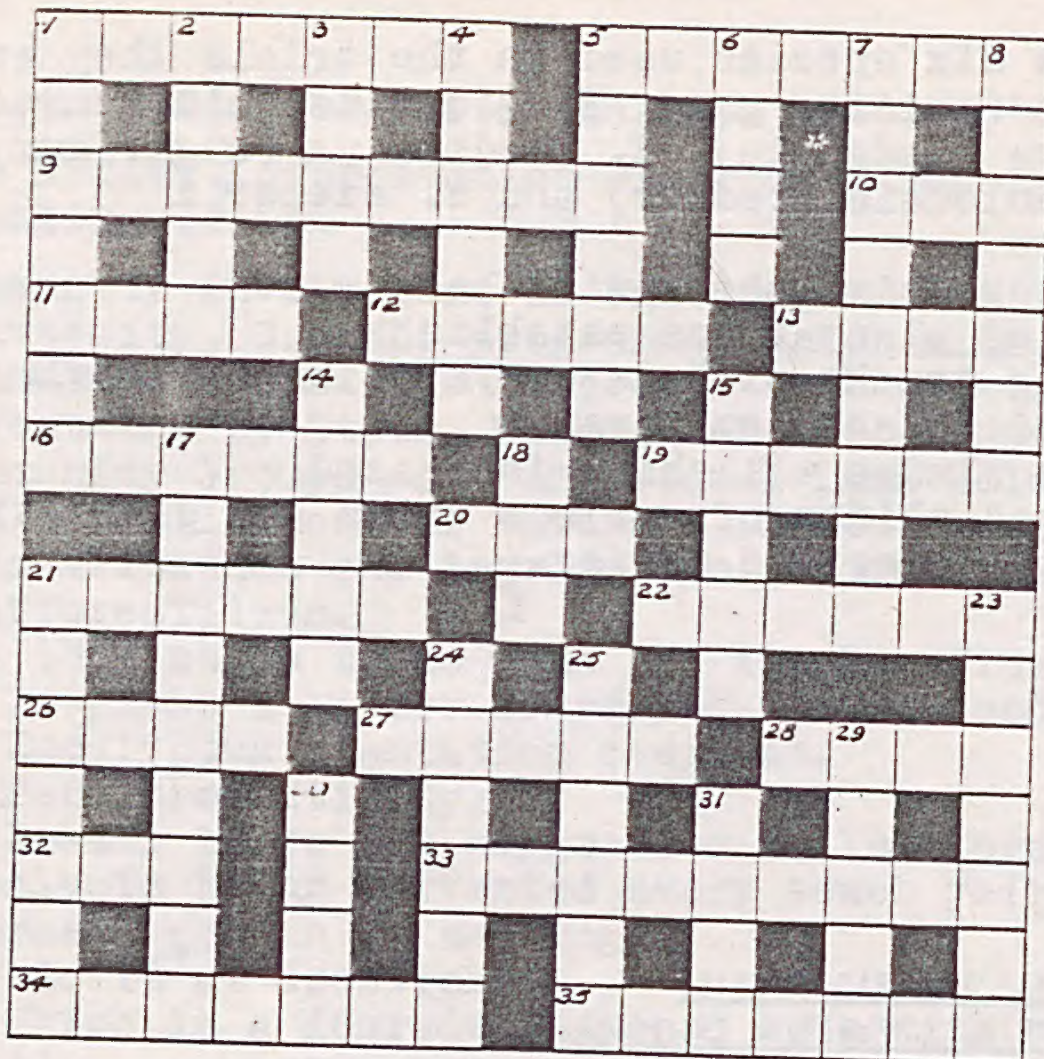
P.M.



FLOWER
ENLARGED



LEAF
X 2



Natural History Crossword No.19 by Tantalus

ACROSS

Large billed bird (7) 5 Self destructing animal? (7) 9 Marine relic of the past of the past. (9) 10 Female bird (3) 11 Parasitic mite- dangerous to animals (4) 12 Vital organ. Life depends on it so we are told! (5) 13 Short dog! (4) 16 Brush, Oriental or Pallid? (6) 19 Digits with two phalanges (6) 20 Large fish (3) 21 Member of Family Charadriidae (6) 22 A Molar does (6) 26 Gemstone for which Australia is renowned. (4) 33 European Alpine flower (9) 34 Can you 'match' this bird? (7) 35 Pseudo-fish with sucker mouth.(7)

DOWN

1 Man-made material, environmentalists nightmare (7) 2 Syringa vulgaris (5) 3 Occupied by fauna in zoo (4) 4 Skin of fur of coypu (6) 5 Squirrels provide one for Winter (6) 6 Duck or rat? (4) 7 Pharoah's rat, related to mongoose or weasel (9) 8 Male geese (7) 14 If in trouble - run for it! (6) 15 Collective noun for Goldfinches (5) 17 Hybrid (9) 18 Kangaroos do (3) 21 Large leopard (7) 23 Male Musk Duck's courting behaviour could be so described (7) 24 Wildlife survival will ----- on us (6) 25 Siren Lacertina (marine) (3-3) 29 The hen or the egg comes this? (6) (Be careful) 30 Small shark, wren or grove of trees (4) 31 Sardine can! (4)

Publications & Reports Available:

Natural Resources & Environmental Committee - South Western Region
Water Management Strategy (Nov.'89)

Dept. of C.F.& L., Ballarat Region - Resource Inventory for the Ballarat
to Skipton Disused Railway Line.

Victorian Conservation Trust - Annual Report 1989.

Please note that the SUPPER ROSTER (in the meeting room cupboard door)
shows that volunteers are still required for most months of this year. Please
select a month and add your name to the list.

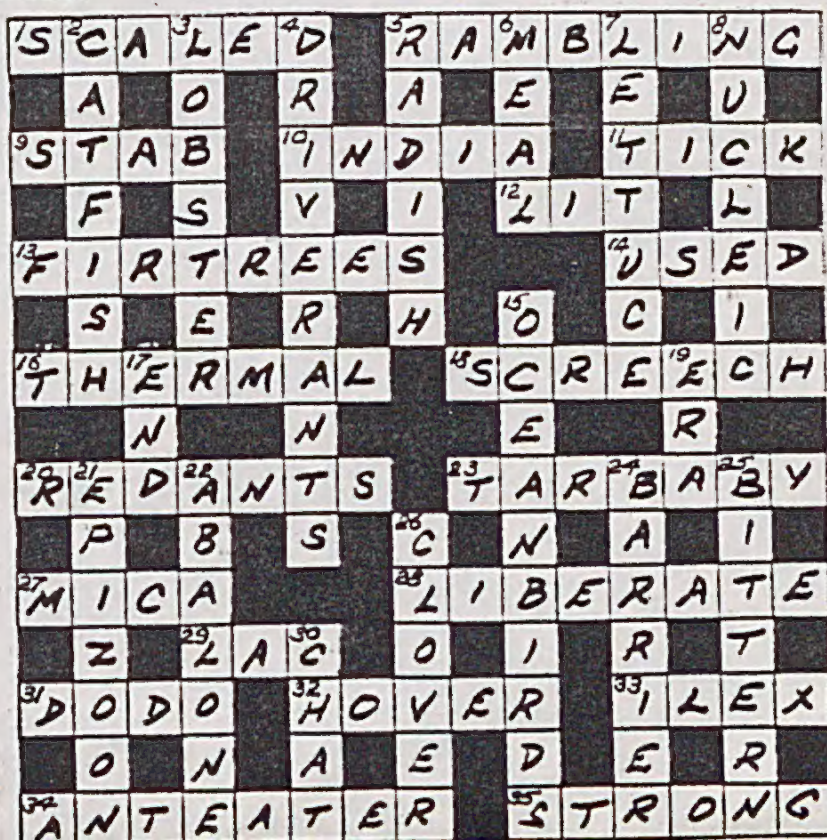
Atlas of Victorian Wildlife & State Flora Database.

This is a computer database of locality records of Victorian
vertebrate species & of plants. Kits of information and recording literature
are now available for members use. The database is intended to function
as a tool for land managers, wildlife planners and researchers by providing
ready access to data about species distribution & status within defined
areas of Victoria.

Enquiries regarding the scheme and its local access should be
directed to Phil. Norman (Dept of C.F.& L.) Ph. 053 370541.

The Dept. aims to have a high proportion of field observations
entered, & hence to increase the value of the data. It is available free
to anyone having a genuine interest.

*Solution
to
Crossword No. 18*



FAMILY LORANTHACEAE

We often see that another plant is growing on the branches of gum trees. Yes ! It is "mistletoe " and is related to the European plant around which there are numerous ancient tales and rites !

The family is a tropical and temperate one of semi-parasitic shrubs. The seed is carried on the feet of the mistletoe bird, and on germination a haustorium is produced which eventually penetrates the wood vessels of the host plant. The haustorium performs some of the functions of the root of a normal plant in the soil.

In the family there are 65 genera and more than 900 species. Years ago many of the Australian species were placed in the type genus, *Loranthus*, which is now considered to be absent in Australia. Here most of the mistletoes are found on eucalypts, acacias and casuarinas. Around Ballarat the common mistletoe on the gum trees is *Amyema pendulum* (Drooping Mistletoe). Others are found on box trees and wattles.

Another genus, *Muellerina*, is also present.

Genus *Amyema*

Leaves are glabrous or tomentose (covered with short, soft hairs) often thick and quite long, with parallel venation and similar to the leaves of the host.

Flowers are bisexual and are borne in axillary umbel-like groups of 2 or 3. The calyx is reduced to a rim on top of the inferior ovary. The corolla may be 3-4 cm long, and the petals form a tube at the lower end. The fruit is berry-like contains 1 seed which is surrounded by a sticky material.

